



Henry Ossawa Tanner, "The Annunciation," 1898

Worship for the Lord's Day

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023

9:30 am

Prelude

O Come, All Ye Faithful

arr. Cindy Berry

Words of Welcome

Rev. Beth Freese Dammers

***Opening Words**

Michele Vickery

One: How does a weary world rejoice?

All: We sing songs of hope.

We allow hope to change us, to strengthen us.

We tell the stories of what could be.

We listen for God's word.

We resist the temptation to give up or give in.

We remember Mary's song.

We gather for worship.

We hope.

We hope.

Against all odds, we hope.

One: Friends, this is the day that the Lord is still making. Let us worship holy God.

***Hymn**

Christmas Is Coming

John Bell

Chorus: Congregation Verses 1 - 4, duet, Abby Petersen and Julia Lorenz
Tristan Rush, piano • Robert Monson, violin • Willem Marginean, cello

CHORUS



"Christ - mas is com - ing," the church is glad to sing, and
let the Ad - vent can - dles bright - ly burn in a ring.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 2/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody with similar note values and concludes with a double bar line.

Lighting of the Advent Candle Julia Lorenz, Robert Monson, Abby Petersen, Willem Marginean, Tristan Rush

Call to Confession

Michele

One: Family of faith, we all know that a small group of convicted people can change the world. That's how it's always been. People like Mary, people like Zechariah, people like John the Baptist.

And yet, we rarely feel like we can be one of those people. We downplay our ability to make a difference. We choose pessimism over optimism. We sweep hope under the rug for the sake of realism. We forget the words to Mary's song.

Fortunately for us, our God carries enough hope and grace for all of us. So let us go to God in prayer. Let us speak the truth of our lives, and let that honesty change us. Friends, let us pray:

Prayer of Confession

All: Holy God, more days than not, hope feels like the rain. We try to hold onto it with cupped hands, but eventually, it slips right on through. Forgive us for holding hope so loosely. Forgive us for allowing the realities of today to define tomorrow. We know that this world needs people of hope, so today we pray: turn us into those people. Teach us how to sing Mary's song of hope for the world. With open hearts we pray, amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

One: Body of Christ, no matter how many times we let hope slip through our fingers, we still belong to God. So let us share these truths.

**All: I am God's beloved.
I am forgiven.
I am blessed and sent to serve.**

One: This is the good news of the Gospel. This is a hope we can hang our hats on. Thanks be to God for God's unending love. Amen.

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

Rev. Susan Tindall

One: As a sign of our reconciliation with God and with one another, let us share the peace with one another. The Peace of Christ be with you!

All: **And also with you!**

***Sung Response 89** refrain only

For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits

MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS

The musical notation consists of two staves of music in G major. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (Bb), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The second staff continues the melody with a quarter note D5, followed by quarter notes E5, F5, and G5. The music then changes to a 3/4 time signature for a half note G4, followed by a 4/4 time signature for a quarter note A4, quarter notes Bb4 and C5, and a final quarter note D5. The lyrics are: "For you, O Lord my soul in still-ness waits; tru - ly my hope is in you. For you, O Lord my soul in still-ness waits; tru - ly my hope is in you."

Growing with God

Kristin Duy

Following our time together, all children are invited go to Grace Space or sit with their parents

Prayer for Inspiration

Michele

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:26-38

One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word! This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Sing Stories of Hope

Rev. Beth Freese Dammers

***Affirmation of Faith**

We believe that hope can change the world. We believe that God uses ordinary people, like an unwed teenage mother, for extraordinary good.

And we believe that each of these ordinary people can make a difference.

We know that grief, fear, and suffering abound.

We know that suffering quells joy and makes it harder to hope. But we choose hope anyway.

In the face of hardship, we hope together.

We hope with God.

We hope for a better world.

This is our song.

We believe; help our unbelief.

In Christ's name we pray, amen.

***Hymn 105** v. 1-2, 4-5

People, Look East

BESANÇON

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Michele
arr. Susan Geschke



*Doxology words 607, tune 606

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

Michele

QRCode for Giving

Holy Communion

Rev. Beth Freese Dammers & Rev. Susan Tindall

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: *(prayer continues)*

...at this table, giving us a song to sing with all creation:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord; God of pow-er and might. Heav-en and
earth are full of your glo - - ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est! Ho -
san - na in the high-est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Blest is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high-est! Ho -
san - na in the high-est! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

One: *(prayer continues)*

...help us to boldly proclaim the great mystery of our faith:

Christ has died, Christ is ris-en, Christ will come a - gain. Ho -
san - na in the high-est! Ho - san - na in the high-est! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

(prayer continues)

Lord's Prayer (unison, using "sins")

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

***Communion of the People**

*Ushers will invite you to come forward for the receiving of communion.
All are invited to come to the table using the center aisle and return via the outside aisles.
The center station offers allergen-free wafers and prepackaged communion elements.
Any with mobility challenges will be served in the pews.*

***Hymn During Communion 507**

Come to the Table of Grace

TABLE OF GRACE

Prayer after Communion

All: We give you thanks, O Lord, for once again you have filled us with good things—not just bread and wine, but your very self. Now may this glimpse of your kingdom sustain us and give us eyes to see you at work in every place, and strength to be your body in the world. Make us your people, again and again, light for the world. In Jesus' name. Amen.

***Hymn 119**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

***Charge and Blessing**

Beth

***Postlude**

How Great Our Joy

arr. Brian Chung

** Please rise in spirit or body*

All speak emboldened type

USHERS: Andrew Petersen, Todd Petersen

ONLINE WORSHIP HOST: Linda Cirillo

LITURGIST: Michele Vickery

AV: Tristan Rush, Paul Abraham, Pat Garner

ADVENT WREATH: Tristan Rush, Robert Monson, Abby Petersen, Julia Lorenz, Willem Marginean

COMMUNION SET-UP: Todd Petersen

COMMUNION SERVERS: Janice Bouchard, Jason Salbego, Kris Veenbaas

Next Sunday in Worship, December 31

First Sunday of Christmas

9:30 am

Luke 2:21-38

We root ourselves in ritual



This week at CPC:

Sunday, December 24

Communion

9:30 am — Worship

7:00 pm — Christmas Eve Worship

9:00 pm — Christmas Eve Worship

Monday, December 25

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, December 26

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, December 27

Church Office OPEN 9:00 - 5:00

Thursday, December 28

Church Office OPEN 9:00 - 5:00

Friday, December 29

Church Office OPEN 9:00 - 3:00

Saturday, December 30

4:00 pm — Youth Alum winter reunion; Youth Lounge

Sunday, December 31

9:30 am — Worship

Monday, January 1

Church Office Closed



NURSERY CARE

The Nursery will be staffed on **January 7**. It is located across from the church office on the main floor and is always open and available for use, even when not staffed by our volunteers. Live stream of the worship service is available in the Nursery.

CPC Kids ~ 3yrs thru 5th grade

After Growing with God all children are invited to go back to Grace Space to participate in Nativity activities or sit with their family for the remainder of the worship service.



CPC Youth Movie Night!

01/07

5-7:00pm

While formal youth activities are on break, middle school and high school students are invited to meet up for a movie night in the youth lounge on January 7th!! Wear your comfy cozies and bring a blanket for a relaxing end to the winter break. Dinner will be served and snacks will be shared! Looking forward to seeing you in the new year!





BIBLE PRESENTATION SUNDAY

Sunday, January 14

Join us as we present Bibles to our 3rd graders during worship service.

All kids in 3rd - 5th grade will then participate in our Bible Explorers group starting January 28. For three Sundays the kids will participate in this class that introduces/reinforces their use of the Bible.

News of THE AMOS GROUP

Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amos 5:24

Great Response to the Clothing Drive on Saturday, Dec. 16

Fourteen volunteers – 7 from CPC and 7 from Hinsdale South – received and sorted donated clothes in Fellowship Hall. We filled about a dozen construction-sized plastic bags from donations that were dropped off. Hinsdale South Student Support Coordinator Ayesha Truman sends a huge THANKS.

With your help, we are making a difference! Please send your questions, ideas or comments to Gregg Morton.



CPC YOUTH ALUMNI WINTER REUNION

Fri, Dec 29 Beginning at 4:00pm

Youth Lounge

One of the best parts of the holidays is reconnecting with friends and family! We are so excited to welcome back our college aged students and hope you can join us for a winter reunion on December 29th. Join us for painting in the youth lounge, food and a time to simply be together. We look forward to seeing you! Contact Pastor Susan or Riley Roca with any questions!

YEAR-END GIVING

As we approach the end of the year, please consider additional financial gifts to the church. Whether you are completing your pledge for 2023 or providing a year-end gift, all gifts are important and deeply appreciated.

To ensure your donations are credited to your 2023 giving please:

- Mail donations with a postmark no later than December 31
- Give on-line by December 28 at <https://onrealm.org/cpc/-/form/give/now>
- Bring your donation to church office by **noon, Friday Dec 29**
- NOTE: Office closed Mon Dec 25, Tues Dec 26



LOOKING AHEAD to 2024

- Jan 7 Baptism of the Lord Sunday, Communion
- Jan 14 3rd Grade Bible Sunday Ordination & Installation of Elders and Deacons
- Jan 21 Ordination & Installation of Deacons and Elders
- Jan 28 Guest Preacher / Teacher: Rev Dr Barbara Wilson
- Feb 4 Annual Meeting of the Congregation following worship, Communion
- Feb 11 Youth Sunday
- Feb 14 Ash Wednesday Worship at 7:00 pm, Communion

KIDS' ACADEMY SAVE THE DATES

NOW - Registration for the 2024/25 School Year for current Kids' Academy families.

Monday, January 15 -Open registration for the 2024/25 School Year for new families. Registration information will be updated to the Kids' Academy website shortly before that date.

Saturday January 20, Noon - 2:00 pm - Kids' Academy Open House



ANNUAL MEETING & ALL CHURCH BRUNCH

Sun Feb 4 following worship

Plan to be present to celebrate the joy and excitement! Following worship and communion, we'll delight in a homemade brunch, complete with Kris and Jack's candied BACON, highlights of 2023 and a round of CPC Jeopardy!! This intergenerational event will have activities for kids and adults alike!

Did someone say BACON?



All are Welcome!
Christmas Eve Services
7:00 & 9:00 pm
**Candlelight, Carols
& Communion**

in-person & livestream
chpc.org



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Clarendon Hills, IL 60514
630-323-6522

www.chpc.org [Follow us on Facebook](#)

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